



Quarterly reporting Q4 2013–14

Approvals summary

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Approvals summary

Works approvals and licences

For major resource project approvals, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) has set a target to decide (grant or refuse) 100 per cent of works approval and licence applications within 60 working days.

During the April to June 2014 quarter, DER received 29 new works approval applications and seven new licence applications for major resource projects.

In the first three quarters of 2013–14, 19, 32 and 36 works approval applications were received respectively.

In the first three quarters of 2013–14, seven, five and one licence applications were received respectively.

Thirty-three works approvals for major resource projects were decided in the fourth quarter, similar to the number decided in the previous quarter.

Ninety-four per cent of works approval applications for major resource projects were decided within the target time frame. This is an increase over the previous quarter (90 per cent) and the second highest quarterly percentage for 2013–14.

Seven new major resource project licence applications were received and five major resource project licence applications were decided in the fourth quarter.

One hundred per cent of decisions were finalised within the target time frame in each quarter of 2013–14, except for the second quarter when 83 per cent was achieved.

The average decision time for major resource project works approvals in the fourth quarter decreased slightly to 50 working days from 53 working days, and for licences was reduced to 35 working days from 43 days.

For non-major resource projects (other projects) approvals, DER has set a target to decide 80 per cent of works approval and licence applications within 60 working days.

Twenty-three other project works approvals were decided by DER in the fourth quarter of 2013–14. Seventy per cent of these within the target time frame, down from 90 per cent in the previous quarter.

Seven other projects licences were decided by DER in the fourth quarter of 2013–14, 57 per cent of these within the target time frame, which was a significant decrease from the 88 per cent achieved in the previous quarter.

The average decision time for other projects works approval applications increased in the fourth quarter to 53 working days, compared to 47 working days in the previous quarter.

The average time of 74 days in the fourth quarter to decide a licence application was a significant increase from the 42 days in the previous quarter. (Note: The average time to process six out of the seven licence applications was 53 days; however, 196 days were required to decide one licence application.)

DER is continuing its reform program to streamline the decision-making process, in order to achieve the agreed target timelines.

Approvals summary

Works approvals and licences

Department of Environment Regulation	Q1 2013–14	Q2 2013–14	Q3 2013–14	Q4 2013–14
Works approvals (major resource projects only)				
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	44	23	35	39
No. of applications received	19	32	36	29
No. of applications granted/refused	40	20	30	33
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	21	14	6	21
No. of applications withdrawn	0	0	2	0
Average time for decision (business days)	48	49	53	50
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame of 60 business days (target is 100%)	92	95	90	94
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	23	35	39	35
Licences (Major resource projects only)				
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	27	22	20	17
No. of applications received	7	5	1	7
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	12	8	2	3
No. of applications granted/refused	11	6	4	5
No. of applications withdrawn	1	1	0	2
Average time for decision (business days)	50	45	43	35
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame of 60 business days (target is 60%)	100	83	100	100
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	22	20	17	17
Works approvals (other projects)				
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	27	29	35	43
No. of applications received	21	28	31	24
No. of applications granted/refused	19	22	20	23
No. of applications withdrawn	0	0	3	1
Average time for decision (business days)	49	37	47	53
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame of 60 business days (target is 80%)	74	91	90	70
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	29	35	43	43
Licences (other projects)				
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	19	17	16	15
No. of applications received	16	12	7	6
No. of applications granted/refused	17	11	8	7
No. of applications withdrawn	1	1	0	1
Average time for decision (business days)	39	56	42	74*
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame of 60 business days (target is 80%)	88	64	88	57
No. of open applications as of end of quarter	17	17	15	13

*One other project licence application was determined at 196 days, which has impacted the average processing time frame for Q4 2013–14. For the remaining six licence applications granted, the average processing time taken was 53 days.

Approvals summary

Native vegetation clearing permits

For native vegetation clearing permits, DER has set a target time frame of 80 per cent of applications decided¹ within 60 calendar days of receipt, and 100 per cent within 90 calendar days.

DER received 103 native vegetation clearing permit applications in this quarter, compared to 115 in the previous quarter.

DER made 107 decisions on applications, compared to 117 in the previous quarter.

DER did not meet its target time frames in the April to June 2014 quarter, with 63 per cent of decisions made within 60 days (61 the previous quarter), a further 31 per cent within 90 days, and six per cent taking longer than 90 days.

Of the six applications that exceeded the 90-day target, two were finalised within 100 days, three within 110 days, and one within 120 days. These applications required modifications and further information during the assessment process.

Of the 107 decisions made on applications, 81 clearing permit applications were granted within an average time frame of 54 days.

Four applications for a clearing permit were refused. Of the remaining applications, 19 were withdrawn and three declined as the applications were not valid.

The number of open clearing permit applications at the end of the fourth quarter decreased to 124, compared to 130 at the end of the previous quarter and significantly less than the 166 at the same time last year.

DER continues to work to improve its performance in deciding clearing permit applications.

DER's clearing permit system database records the details of clearing permit applications and decisions made for both DER and the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)², and forms the basis of the published records available on DER's website.

The quantitative information presented in the tables in this report is provided for both DER and DMP.

The qualitative information in the text above relates only to DER.

¹ A 'clearing permit decision made' means an application to clear has been granted, given an undertaking to grant, refused, declined, withdrawn, amended, revoked or suspended.

² Under section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DER has delegated decision-making on clearing applications to DMP for the following activities:

- An activity under an authority granted, or a requirement imposed, under the Mining Act 1978, the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967, the Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969 or the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982.
- An activity under a government agreement administered by the Department of State Development.

Approvals summary

Clearing permits

Department of Environment Regulation	Q1 2013–14	Q2 2013–14	Q3 2013–14	Q4 2013–14
No. of applications carried over from previous periods*	162	171	132	128
No. of applications received	146	104	115	103
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	64	61	73	53
Average time in 'stop the clock' for decisions in days	149	111	126	131
Average time for decision in days (excluding time in 'stop the clock')	53	54	52	38
No. decisions on applications	138	140	117	107
No. of outstanding applications at end of quarter	170	135	130	124
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame				
60 days (80% of applications finalised)	53	60	61	63
90 days (100% of applications finalised)	96	97	94	94
>90 days	4	3	6	6

Department of Mines and Petroleum	Q1 2013–14	Q2 2013–14	Q3 2013–14	Q4 2013–14
No. of applications carried over from previous periods	48	30	37	37
No. of applications received	48	44	47	67
No. of decisions that were subject to 'stop the clock'	33	26	25	41
Average time in 'stop the clock' for decisions in days	37	34	16	32
Average time for decision in days (excluding time in 'stop the clock')	57	48	39	54
No. decisions on applications	65	43	47	55
No. of outstanding applications at end of quarter	31	31	37	49
Percentage of applications that were finalised within benchmark time frame				
60 days (80% of applications finalised)	75	86	79	87
90 days (100% of applications finalised)	90	98	100	100
>90 days	10	2	0	0

Note

* This figure is not the same as the outstanding applications at the end of the previous quarter due to data correction occurring for Q4 2013–14.